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The rule of law at the national and international levels

Letter dated 9 August 2013 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Paraguay to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the open debate of the Security Council on "Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security", held on 6 August 2013, on the occasion of which references were made to the political process in Paraguay.

In this regard, I am pleased to transmit a letter from Ambassador José Félix Fernández Estigarribia, Minister for Foreign Affairs, rejecting the statements concerning the internal affairs of the Republic of Paraguay (see annex).

Furthermore, I respectfully request that the present letter and the letter of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Fernández Estigarribia, be circulated among Member States and observers under agenda item 83.

(*Signed*) Marcelo **Scappini Ricciardi**
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 9 August 2013 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Paraguay to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Spanish]

I have the honour to write to you regarding the statements that were made in the United Nations Security Council by the Minister of the People's Power for Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Elías Jaua Milano, and were issued by the Bolivarian Communication and Information System on 7 August 2013.

In that connection, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Paraguay would like to state that the Republic of Paraguay categorically rejects Minister Jaua's statements regarding the internal affairs of the Republic of Paraguay. Specifically, it rejects those statements insofar as they claimed that the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) "was alarmed by the arbitrary impeachment of former Paraguayan President Fernando Lugo, owing to which that sister republic's membership was suspended until new elections were held".

As you will see, the statements made by Minister Jaua are based on erroneous interpretations of the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Paraguay and of their application by the competent body, the National Congress of Paraguay, during the political trial of former president Fernando Lugo, which culminated in his admission of guilt and resignation on the grounds of poor performance of his duties.

For this reason, the Republic of Paraguay regrets that the Minister of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela expressed opinions concerning or passed judgement on the political and legal proceedings implemented in the Republic of Paraguay, even though those proceedings were conducted in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Constitution. The language used by Minister Jaua constitutes a violation of the purposes and principles that are enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and in many General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 2625 (XXV) (approving the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations). In particular, the statements made by Minister Jaua violate the principles of the self-determination of peoples and the equality of States on which the United Nations and relations between civilized nations are based.

The Republic of Paraguay hereby declares that it does not accept, nor shall it accept under any circumstance, the illegitimate, arbitrary and unjust sanction imposed on it by the Argentine Republic, the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Eastern Republic of Uruguay and the States members of MERCOSUR on the basis of their uninformed and unfounded interpretation of the Constitution of the Republic of Paraguay and of its application by the competent body.

In notes addressed to the Embassies of the Argentine Republic, the Federative Republic of Brazil and the Eastern Republic of Uruguay in Asunción in September and December 2012, the Republic of Paraguay submitted a formal protest against its suspension from membership in MERCOSUR and against the so-called admittance of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to full membership in MERCOSUR. Therefore, the Republic of Paraguay does not recognize these acts or those resulting

therefrom, including the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela's service as President pro tempore of MERCOSUR.

Lastly, I would like to request that this note be circulated to all Member States of the United Nations as a document of the General Assembly under item 83 of the agenda for the sixty-seventh session of the Assembly.

(*Signed*) José Félix **Fernández Estigarribia**
Minister